

MINUTES

KEY COLONY BEACH CITY COMMISSION

EMERGENCY MEETING

Thursday, May 21st, 2026 – 5:45 PM

Marble Hall, 600 W. Ocean Drive, Key Colony Beach
& via Zoom Conferencing

1. **Call to Order and Roll Call:** The Key Colony Beach Emergency Meeting was called to order by Mayor Foster at 5:45 PM, followed by Rollcall. **Present:** Mayor Freddie Foster, Vice-Mayor Doug Colonell, Commissioner Tom Harding, Commissioner Tom DiFransico, Commissioner Kirk Diehl (via Zoom). **Also present:** City Attorney Jim Hicks, City Administrator John Bartus, Building Official Tony Lorenzo, Public Works Department Head Mike Guarino, Sgt. Jamie Buxton, Administrative Assistant Par Darnall, City Clerk Silvia Roussin.

2. **Approval of the Agenda** (*Additions, changes, and deletions can be made via one motion and a second to approve by a majority vote:* There were no changes to the agenda, and Mayor Foster asked for a motion to approve.

MOTION: Motion made by Vice-Mayor Colonell to approve. Commissioner Harding seconded the motion.

DISCUSSION: None.

ON THE MOTION: Rollcall vote. Unanimous approval.

3. **Citizen Comments and Correspondence:** None.

4. **Discussion/Review to address Sewer Plant Issues:** Mayor Foster discussed recent issues at the sewer plant and emphasized the need to act promptly to protect the City from potential fines and the consequences of future incidents. He stated that pump-out operations were currently under control, but recommended hiring a trained individual to provide oversight and help safeguard the City's interests through the safe operation of the plant. Mayor Foster added that the City must place itself in a position to better protect its operations and long-term interests. Commissioner Harding commented on the number of spills, noting that he had not seen issues this severe during his time on the Utility Board and City Commission. He added that the impact could be both a public health concern and a financial liability. Commissioner Harding agreed with the need for greater City oversight and supported the Mayor's recommendation.

MOTION: Motion made by Commissioner Harding to authorize the Mayor to advertise for and hire an operator with the skill set appropriate for the plant's configuration, while continuing to monitor the City's relationship with the current contractor.

Mayor Foster commented on the time he and Commissioner Harding had spent at the plant providing monitoring, coaching, and feedback, and ensuring that reports were submitted and that the equipment and facility were properly maintained. Commissioner DiFransico asked for clarification regarding the role of the proposed new hire. Mayor Foster stated that the City would be seeking a licensed operator qualified to work with the MBR system.

Mayor Foster called for a second. Vice-Mayor Colonell seconded the motion.

FURTHER DISCUSSION: Vice-Mayor Colonell expressed appreciation to Mayor Foster and Commissioner Harding for their work and asked about the current performance of US Water. Mayor Foster asked that the discussion remain focused on protecting the City and maintaining reliable system operations, and clarified that the proposed individual would be in addition to US Water. He further stated that the plant is self-sufficient in covering its costs, and that the greater concern was not the added staffing expense, but the potential loss of the plant. Commissioner Harding added that the costs associated with cleanup, repairs, and fines far exceed employee costs. Commissioner DiFransico cautioned against losing US Water and noted the possible long-term ramifications. Mayor Foster stated that the issue under discussion was the need for a City employee to oversee plant operations. Commissioner Harding further commented on the benefit of extending staff coverage hours. There was no further discussion.

ON THE MOTION: Rollcall vote. Unanimous approval.

5. **Adjournment:** The meeting adjourned at 5:54 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Silvia Roussin
City Clerk

ADOPTED: June 18, 2026
Silvia Roussin
City Clerk